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PIERCE, Franklin Duane, M. D.,

Eminent Physician.

Fewer men of a long and notable New England ancestry have lived up to the high traditions of race than did Dr. Franklin Duane Pierce, who long served the public of Buffalo by his able work as a physician, who operated a private sanitarium in order best to restore health to his patients, and who found time in a humanitarian career to play a large part in developing the resources of Jackson County, Alabama, bringing prosperity to that remote region.

There are many distinct families bearing the name of Pierce in the United States, and various forms of spelling are found. The founder of the Pierce family to which the subject of this record belongs was in the early annals spelled "Pearse" and "Pierce." This was Abraham Pierce who came from England between 1620 and 1623, settled first in Plymouth, where he served in 1643 as a soldier under Captain Miles Standish, and later moved to Duxbury, and was an original proprietor of Bridgewater in 1645. His wife was Rebecca, and the line was carried down by their son, Isaac Pierce, born in 1661, who served in the Narragansett

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War, and died at what is now Middleboro, Massachusetts, in 1732. His son, Thomas Pierce, married Naomi Booth, and they were the parents of Shadrach Pierce, born July 8, 1717, who married Abigail Haskins, of Taunton, Massachusetts.

Levi Pierce, son of Shadrach and Abigail (Haskins) Pierce, was born in Middleboro, Massachusetts, February 26, 1739, served for a time in the militia sent to reinforce Fort William Henry in 1757, went as a private soldier on the expedition to Crown Point, and is said to have served throughout three enlistments in the Revolutionary War. He opened a popular tavern in Berkshire County, on the Boston-Bennington Road. He married Bathsheba Babbett.

Liberty Pierce, son of Levi and Bathsheba (Babbett) Pierce, was born in Spencer, Massachusetts, during his family's temporary residence there, in 1774, and died in Burlington, New York, February 8, 1864. He was a farmer, and married Lydia Beals, of Abington, Massachusetts, of a family descended from Revolutionary heroes who are said to have been conspicuously brave at Bunker Hill.

Duane Pierce, son of Liberty and Lydia (Beals) Pierce, father of the subject of this biographical record, was born in Burlington, Otsego County, New York, January 11, 1809, and died in Buffalo, New York, October 20, 1881. After receiving an education in the local schools and learning the trade of carpenter, joiner, and millwright, Duane Pierce occupied himself during most of his business career with the construction of various kinds of mills throughout his section of New York and in Northwestern Pennsylvania, including cotton, saw, flour and woolen mills. He also farmed in Northwestern Pennsylvania. He was a Republican, and

a Universalist in religious faith. Duane Pierce married, January 23, 1833, at Hartwick, Otsego County, New York, Mary Morse, born in Burlington, January 21, 1817, daughter of Nathaniel Morse, a pioneer settler of the county who moved there from Connecticut. Nathaniel was a son of Stephen, son of Daniel (2), son of Daniel (1), son of William, son of Anthony Morse, the emigrant ancestor, born in Marlboro, Wiltshire, England, who settled in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1635. One of the children of Duane and Mary (Morse) Pierce was the subject of this history, Dr. Franklin Duane Pierce.

Dr. Franklin Duane Pierce was born February 22, 1853, at Chapmanville, Pennsylvania. He was educated in the Buffalo High School and at Williams Academy. His professional education was obtained at the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated with the class of 1875 with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His further medical studies were pursued at the Medical College of the University of the City of New York, from which he graduated with the class of 1878. He practiced medicine in Buffalo, New York, from 1875 to 1886, except for a year spent at University Medical College in New York and in hospitals practicing medicine and surgery. He was associated with his brother, Dr. Ray Vaughn Pierce, until 1886, in the World Dispensary and Medical Association of Buffalo, founded by Dr. Ray V. Pierce. For a number of years Dr. Franklin D. Pierce operated a private sanitarium and convalescent hotel at Union Springs, New York, known as the Hygeia. In 1900 he moved to Syracuse, New York, where he practiced medicine until 1903. He then moved to Jackson County, Alabama, where he engaged in the development of coal and timber lands, being vice-

president and manager of the Pierce Development Company. There he built railroads, coal and lumber plants, electric light plants, and generally used all his unflagging energy and enterprise in the improvement of this naturally rich but undeveloped section. His health failing him, he returned to Syracuse, where he spent the remainder of his life, and where he died July 29, 1924, and was buried in the family plot in Buffalo Forest Lawn Cemetery. There his loving wife erected a beautiful monument to his memory. Dr. Pierce was a Republican in politics, a Mason, and a member of the Unitarian Church.

Franklin D. Pierce married (first), April 17, 1876, in Buffalo, New York, Ida J. Constantine, born in Hamilton, New York, September 13, 1854, who died June 5, 1877, in Buffalo, New York. Her father, James Constantine, was a veteran of the Civil War, and her mother's name was Helen. Franklin Duane Pierce married (second), May 26, 1879, in Brooklyn, New York, M. Alice Baker, born in Connecticut, May 3, 1854, daughter of Daniel and Anna (Spellman) Baker. Daniel Baker was a veteran of the Civil War. One son was born of the first marriage, Dr. Franklin Duane Pierce, who is a physician and surgeon, connected with the World Dispensary Medical Association of Buffalo. Mrs. M. Alice (Baker) Pierce still resides at the old home, No. 1505 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, with the companionship of her sister, Ida Louise, where she occupies herself with kindly and philanthropic deeds in memory of her loved husband, whose ever-encouraging companion she was for nearly forty-five years.

Dr. Pierce was one of the most broad-minded, progressive, and alert men of his day. When he recognized a need in the

community, it was his habit to set to work at once to supply that need, and he pushed his various enterprises with tremendous energy and persistence. Whatever he attempted was bound to benefit the community, and he quite literally wore himself out in initiating and getting into running order new enterprises. Throughout all his active career he was a devoted husband and a loyal friend to the many who loved him.
